

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COM-02 OES-07 AID-05 NRC-05
NSC-05 NSF-01 INT-05 IO-13 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
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R 061335Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5636

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FOR BERGSTROM NEA/AFN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, LY
SUBJECT: POTENTIAL EXPORT OF DESALINATION PLANT

1. PHILLIP J. STEVENS, PRESIDENT OF ULTRASYSTEMS INC., HAS BEEN IN TRIPOLI FOR TEN DAYS DISCUSSING THE POSSIBLE SALE TO LIBYA OF A LARGE DESALINATION PLANT CURRENTLY IN PLACE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, A TRANSACTION WHICH HE SAYS COULD ULTIMATELY AMOUNT TO \$100 MILLION. STEVENS SAYS HE HAS TALKED WITH BERGSTROM ABOUT THE PROJECT, AND INTENDS TO TELEPHONE HIM AGAIN NEXT WEEK. HE WILL WISH PARTICULARLY TO GET ANY AVAILABLE GUIDANCE ON THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR HIS PROJECT OF THE PENDING "ACT TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM." WE HAVE NOTED REFERENCE IN THE NEW YORK TIMES JUNE 24 ARTICLE "U.S. DELAYS SALES MADE TO LIBYANS" TO "STRICT TRADE RESTRICTIONS" IF THE ACT IS APPROVED. SINCE THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT SUCH RESTRICTIONS WOULD NOT BE RETROACTIVE IN EFFECT, WE ARE CALLING TO ATTENTION OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN CONTEMPLATING NEW LONG-TERM RELATIONS WITH LIBYA THIS POTENTIAL FACTOR IN THEIR CALCULATIONS.

2. STEVENS SAYS HIS TALKS HERE HAVE GONE EXTREMELY WELL
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AND THAT LIBYANS VERY MUCH WANT THE PLANT. HE FEELS THIS PROJECT COULD DO MUCH FOR LAGGING U.S. IMAGE IN DESALINATION FIELD. HE HAS BEEN TOLD THAT QADHAFI HAS ORDERED CONSTRUCTION OF A STRING OF DESALINATION PLANTS ALONG THE COAST AND DE-EMPHASIS ON DRILLING FOR WATER.
CARLE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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TAGS: BEXP, LY
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